



News Release

STATE OF MARYLAND

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.
Governor

Michael S. Steele
Lt. Governor

Mary Ann Saar
Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Mark Vernarelli
(410) 339-5065
Barbara Cooper 209-4296

Fast-Acting Correctional Officer Prevents Murder Suspect From Escaping Central Booking in Baltimore

Man Had been On the Lam for Three Years

TOWSON, MD (January 27, 2005)—An eight-year veteran Correctional Officer at Baltimore's Central Booking and Intake Center chased and tackled a would-be escapee Tuesday evening, managing to open a padlocked gate and subdue the suspect seconds before he would have been across Madison Street and headed into Downtown Baltimore.

Officer Patrick Henderson heard someone yelling and turned to see the suspect racing full speed down the ramp used by police vehicles at the booking center, where everyone arrested in the city is taken. Because another police vehicle was entering with a suspect at the time, the roll-up gate was open; the fleeing suspect got through that entryway and leaped onto the last obstacle between the center and potential freedom: a 12-foot-high fence topped with barbed wire.

Officer Henderson, acting calmly despite the developing chaos, opened the padlocked gate and tackled the suspect, who had landed atop another police vehicle that was entering the sallyport from Madison Street. Other officers then took the man into custody.

As it turns out, the suspect, 23-year old Sheldon Eubanks, had been on the run for three years and was wanted for murder. He had been arrested by City Police only hours before the would-be escape from Central Booking.

--more--

“This officer’s calm action and fast thinking exemplifies what we’re looking for in a Correctional Officer,” said William J. Smith, Commissioner of the Maryland Division of Pretrial Detention and Services, which oversees Central Booking and two detention centers in Baltimore City, and has a correctional staff of more than 1,400. Added Mary Ann Saar, Secretary of the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services: “Officer Henderson went above and beyond, and in the process, prevented a suspected murderer from regaining his freedom only minutes after he arrived here.”

For his heroic action, Officer Henderson will receive a special citation from Commissioner Smith, and will likely be nominated for further recognition during this year’s public safety appreciation week in May.

Baltimore’s Central Booking and Intake Center is one of the nation’s busiest booking facilities, processing more than 100,000 men and women in a typical year.

The Division of Pretrial Detention and Services also oversees the Men’s and Women’s Detention centers, which includes juveniles charged as adults. On any given day, the Pretrial division houses approximately 4,000 arrestees and offenders.

The Division of Pretrial Detention and Services is under the supervision of the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, led by Secretary Mary Ann Saar.

###